

January 16, 1986

a great improvement in the system. Now, John made some interesting comments about body counts and his analogies are always interesting, but you know why they work sometimes, they work sometimes because people haven't acquainted themselves with the facts enough. This is not a body count situation. This is not an exultation of form over substance. Look at those charts. Look at the two-day committees. Compare 140 bills to committees that have almost double that size. Now, sure, John's point is legitimate in the sense that some bills do take more time than others and that has been considered, but when you're looking at body counts, so to speak, where there is more than a hundred bills or one two-day committee's work load is double another's, that's not a form problem. That's a substance problem and, furthermore, the other thing that we looked at is how long does it take to have committee hearings? That tells you, doesn't it, in the end the relative work loads and I am on the Constitutional Revision and Recreation Committee and I am on the Judiciary Committee. I am on one of the least worked committees and on one of the most worked committees and I tell you, my friends, it's not fair to the individuals in this Legislature to have differentials in work load like that. We should all have even work loads. The work load for the Constitutional Revision Committee, and this is no insult to its chairman because he handles it quite well, but he doesn't have anything to do with the work load, but it's not enough. The staff is sitting around, we're sitting around, it's just not fair to the rest of the Legislature. We should be doing more on Constitutional Revision. We should be picking up a greater work load. Senator Haberman mentioned the fact that we're not like any other legislatures. I had indicated to you that there are different structures in other legislatures and he had indicated that in other legislatures, the leadership directs the bills, says where the bills are to go so, therefore, we're not like them, but he proves my point, he proves my point. In our Legislature we don't have absolute authority on the Executive Board to shift work loads among the committees. Our tradition has been and our referencing practice has been to send work load to committee by jurisdiction, by the traditional jurisdictions, and sure, we get in hassles from time to time about what is in one jurisdiction and what's in another...

PRESIDENT: One minute.